

# ***DoD Details Military Smallpox Vaccination Program***

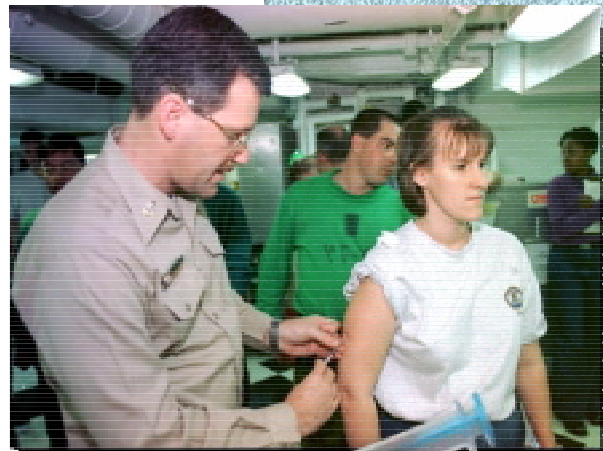
The Department of Defense (DoD) highlighted its plan to prepare for and respond to possible smallpox attacks against service members.

The Smallpox Vaccination Program is consistent with Food and Drug Administration guidelines. This program supports the national smallpox preparedness plan, but is tailored to the unique requirements of the armed forces.

The first to receive the vaccine will be smallpox response teams, along with hospital and clinic workers, then designated forces having mission essential capabilities. Like other vaccinations, this will be mandated for designated personnel unless they are medically exempt.

Smallpox is caused by a virus called variola, which spreads from person to person through prolonged close contact. Smallpox can cause a severe rash that can leave permanent scars, high fever, severe headaches or backaches. Smallpox kills about three out of 10 people infected.

Further information regarding the Department of Defense smallpox vaccination program can be found at [www.vaccines.army.mil/smallpox.asp](http://www.vaccines.army.mil/smallpox.asp).



**Captain's Call Kit**  
Naval Media Center, Bldg. 168

2713 Mitscher Rd., SW  
Anacostia Annex, DC 20373-5819

E-mail: [pubs@mediacen.navy.mil](mailto:pubs@mediacen.navy.mil)

DSN 288- or (202) 433-4380

Fax: (202) 433-4747



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